

## **Abstract**

The history of exploration is one of the great chapters in the history of mankind, which offers not only strong personal stories of desire and determination but is also related to the Great Powers policy. What stands in center of attention of this thesis is an institution established under the patronage of British king William IV, the aim of which was the promotion of geography and exploration of continents. The Royal Geographical Society has been among others distinguished in the support of expeditions which managed to map the sources of the Nile and contribute to a solution of one of the long term mysteries of the mankind.